development Schemes has been releasing funds for Similipal Tiger Reserve, and the details of such releases during the last three years are as below:

Project Tiger Scheme

(Rs. in lakhs)

1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002 as on 6, December, 2001
Release	Utilisation	Release	Utilisation	Release
84.95	57.14	83.31	77.72	126.81

Eco development Scheme

1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002 as on 6, December, 2001
Release	Utilisation	Release	Utilisation	Release
—	5.53	35.00	15.88	10.00

Grants released to Nanadankanan Zoo by the Central Zoo Authority

1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002 as on 6, December, 2001
Release	Utilisation	Release	Utilisation	Release
65.50	60.00	78.00	24.13	—

Olive Ridley Turtles

2781. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Olive Ridley Turtles, coming every year to lay their eggs in the river bed and mouths

Rushikulya and Devi rivers near Gahirmatha Wild Life Sanctuary in Orissa are killed by poachers;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of sea turtles are now coming in groups, as every year; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken to save these rare species from poachers?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) It is a fact that large number of Olive Ridley Turtles come every year for mass nesting on Orissa Coast particularly in Gahirmatha Wildlife Sanctuary, Rushikulya river mouth and Devi river mouth. Chief Wildlife Warden, Orissa has reported that Olive Ridley Turtle has been killed by poachers. However, mortalities on account of Olive Ridley Turtles being caught in fishing nets are reported from time to time. Steps have been taken to check such mortalities include:-

1. Mechanised fishing has been banned in the marine waters within 5 kms. from the coast line in Orissa.
2. Use of Turtle Exclusive Device (TED) in mechanised fishing trawlers has been made mandatory and the fishermen are being trained for using the same.
3. Officers from Forest Department, Department of Fisheries and Coast Guards regularly patrol the area to check illegal fishing.
4. Protection camps with communication facilities (wireless network) have been set up at strategic points for effective communication in the area.
5. Public awareness campaigns are organised through media and Non-Government Organisations.
6. Better coordination is maintained at district level in the coastal districts for providing effective protection to Olive Ridley Turtles.

III Effects of BT Cotton

†2782. DR. (SHRIMATI) KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study about ill effects of genome cotton i.e. B.T. Cotton;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.